

Bloomfield Citizen.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from a general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—so long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1894.

SIXTY VS THIRTY.

A year has passed since the Orange Water Company offered this town a renewal of the water contract on terms that embraced a reduction of price to maintain hydrants from \$60. to \$30. The sum involved in the reduction amounts to over \$4,000. That is what dilatory methods, of the Committee of Thirty, and the active agitation of the monopolists has cost the tax payers. There is no doubt a perfect understanding between the Orange Water Company, the Montclair Water Company, the East Jersey Water Company. Bloomfield does not offer a sufficiently profitable field for these corporations to fall out over. There is practically no choice between the three. The people are not likely to get much cheaper water from one than the other. In the meantime the only party who seems to be making any money out of the whole business is the Orange Water Company. The sixty dollar rate for hydrants is still in force. It is difficult to distinguish who are the best friends of the Orange Water Company, those who favor the renewal of the contract at the reduced rate, or the obstructionist who are enabling the water company to keep on getting the sixty dollar rate.

They will be Missed.

In April, 1887, Miss Annie Davison and Miss Annie E. Baldwin first entered the Post-office. To-night closes their official career as their resignations were sent in sometime ago to take effect April 1st. They have grown with the town, having seen the Post-office business increase since their first inception into the office. Bloomfield has had less errors charged.

Jersey which is due largely to the familiarity of the young ladies with the business. A change of Postmaster made no difference, as the internal arrangements were continued. Miss Davison, in particular, has shown a wonderful aptitude for the business, being a walking gazetteer of knowledge, seeming always to know just where every one lived.

There are particular qualities required for the Post-office which rarely can be acquired and only after years, while others possess them naturally, and so it can be said she had genius that filled her further position. As during their long years of faithful service they have not any prolonged vacation, they contemplate a trip south as far as Washington to recuperate their strength.

Madame Barakat in Glen Ridge.

Bloomfield has always been favored for the interest which its churches take in the work of foreign missions, and every opportunity to learn more of the subject is eagerly welcomed. Another such opportunity is to be given on the evening of Friday, April 6, at 8 o'clock, when Madame Layyah Barakat, formerly of Syria, will speak in the Glen Ridge Church. There will be no tickets of admission, but a collection will be taken for the benefit of the foreign mission cause.

Madame Barakat is a native Syrian, converted through missionary influence, and is a woman of great ability. She is a pleasant and interesting speaker. For the last few years she has lived in this country, giving up a great part of her time to instructing the home workers, and awakening their zeal for the spread of the gospel in Syria. All are cordially invited.

The Brownies in Fairyland.

This beautiful cantata will be represented in the Montclair Club House on the evening of April 21, for the benefit of the Mountaineer Hospital. The children of Bloomfield, Montclair, and Glen Ridge will personate these famous little creatures. The fascination of this amusing and picturesque representation will be greatly added to by the presence of Mr. Palmer Cox, the children's friend. A postal addressed to Mrs. Charles T. Dodd, Glen Ridge, indicating the number of tickets desired, will receive immediate attention, and the purchasers may exchange them on and after April 16, at Baldwin's drug store, Montclair.

Hat Finishers on Strike.

The hat finishers in C. B. Rutan & Co.'s hat shop, West Orange, went on a strike Saturday. They claim that Mr. Rutan has marked down hats in his shop so that the men are working on an expensive large hat at the prices of much cheaper and smaller hat. Mr. Rutan insists that his prices are as high as any paid in the trade.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.**Time to Call a Halt.**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: A little observation of what is going on in this town and a little common-sense reflection thereon will surely not fail to produce the feeling that it is indeed time to call a halt. Bloomfield has not yet become a city. Indeed, its form of local government belongs rather to the smallest village or rural township than to a town with sufficient population to make it a city. In many things, however, Bloomfield is fast becoming filled with such things as abound in some of the largest cities. The unfortunate thing is that these distinguishing characteristics are not of the best that belong to the city, but of the worst. Evils are rapidly developing in this place of the most degrading kind, and full liberty is given to iniquity to run its course unchecked. A few days ago in the annex of a certain saloon the local Sullivan and Corbetta got together and pummeled each other after the usual prize-fight style. But while full notice was given that this degrading show was to come off the authorities stood silently and indifferently aside and did nothing whatever to prevent it. Can it be that they were powerless and that there is no law in this State to prevent this kind of thing? If there is no law, what a strange thing it is that the great pugilists have not long ago discovered this, and made New Jersey their battlefield. Along with prize fighting a lottery is just now in progress also. Drawings are to take place in the near future for a bicycle. This is to be the grand prize. What has been condemned by Congress and driven out of New Orleans may flourish in Bloomfield. Some may say what nonsense! But in all conscience what is the proposed drawing for a bicycle but a lottery pure and simple? It is that, and in measure will have exactly the same demoralizing influence that the infamous Louisiana Lottery had.

Then, too, our town is now to be made the dumping ground for the ousted saloon-keepers of Montclair. Bloomfield is a splendid place for saloon-keepers. There is no Short Law in force here, or indeed any other law in force very much to trouble them. Hence Bloomfield Avenue on both sides is now to be walled by saloons. It will soon be as well provided for as the Bowery in New York. Indeed, in proportion to the population it is quite as well off now. One has only to count the number of saloons on this one street between Orange Street and Glen Ridge to see this. Along with these other distinguishing marks of a great city our walls are now decorated with pictures of semi-nude play actors, with their demoralizing influences.

Surely it is time for some one to call a halt. If those in authority are too indifferent, or have not sufficient courage to enforce the laws and put a stop to some of these evils; if, because it is so near election time, they want to keep in with the worst elements in the community, and so really foster these things, let some one stir up a crusade among the people which will put men at the head of affairs in this town who will have some regard for the moral interests of the community. Let petitions and deputations at once be sent to the courts in Newark to prevent the Bradys from opening their saloon here. If it can be shown that the people of this town are opposed to more saloons coming here, there is reason to believe they will not be licensed. Now is the time to act. In the name of morality and decency,

"CALL A HALT."

Want of Confidence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: The vote Tuesday night was clearly a vote of want of confidence in the Township Committee. That body made a recommendation to the people. The people disapproved of it. There is a certain degree of humiliation attached to the result of the meeting. Thomas Oakes, one member of the Water Committee has been a member of the Township Committee at alternate periods for sixteen years. He is a man in whom the people have heretofore manifested unbounded confidence. He has never been known to have anything but the best interests of the township in view in his long public career. His business sagacity and wisdom are equal to those of any man in the township. He is one of the heaviest taxpayers in the town. Mr. Oakes advises the people of this town to renew the ten-year contract with the Orange Water Company. There is not a man in the town who would dare get up and say that Mr. Oakes expresses anything but his honest conviction when he so advises.

G. Lee Stout, the other member of the Water Committee, who joins with Mr. Oakes in declaring that it is his conviction that it is for the best interest of the town to renew the water contract, has not had the long experience in the Township Committee that Mr. Oakes has, but Mr. Stout is known as an intensely loyal Bloomfielder. He has large property interests in the town and is among the largest and promptest taxpayers. Mr. Stout is a professional financier. He has had a wide business experience.

The people of this town are fortunate in having two such men as Mr. Oakes and Mr. Stout to advise with in a matter of the best method of procuring a water supply. There is not the least doubt at all that if either Mr. Oakes or Mr. Stout thought that the cheapest and

best way of obtaining a water supply was for the town to own its own plant, they would say so; or if any other cheaper and better method of supply presented itself, they would be quick to recommend it. A sensible and judicious way for the people of this town to look at this water-supply question is to compare the elements in the community that are advocating different courses of action. Compare their personal standing in the community, the taxes they pay, their business reputations, and their past loyalty to the interests of the township. Common sense will dictate whose advice ought to be followed. Prudence, however, is not always pro of against eloquence. The vote of want of confidence in the Township Committee was perhaps the result of eloquent speeches on the part of those who politically differ with the members of the Committee. The opposition to the Committee appears to have concocted the scheme to secure the want-of-confidence vote. The leaders of the opposition had met and mapped out their plan of campaign. Each man was assigned his work. The legal point about the indebtedness of the Orange Water Company to the township was known to the leaders to be utterly worthless as a point of law, but as capital for the occasion it was deemed excellent material. The Township Committee was outgeneralled in the fight. A personal animosity engendered in the Committee of Thirty had to be fought out, and the opponents of the Committee chose the battleground and came armed for the fray. The organized force ambushed their prey and scalped their victims. While the taxpayers may have enjoyed the fight, the piper will have to be paid some day. Mr. Oakes and Mr. Stout are taxpayers and they addressed themselves to taxpayers. The course they advised was the one that their judgment convinced them was the one for the taxpayers to pursue. It may be possible that the want-of-confidence vote was not a taxpayers' vote.

TAXPAYER.

Collect the Money.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: It is asserted that the Orange Water Company is indebted to this town to the amount of several thousand dollars. The debt consists of a rebate of thirty dollars per hydrant for every hydrant in the town dating from the time the company made a new contract with the township of East Orange at the reduced rate of thirty dollars per hydrant.

Edward S. Wilde and E. A. Rayner make that assertion. Both these men are lawyers, and are familiar with contract terms and technicalities. Their opinion is of value to the township and should be utilized. The township officials should at once institute legal proceedings to collect the claim. Perhaps some people in the town would fear to trust the present officials to prosecute such a claim. Any danger that the town would be acting under "at least mistaken advice," can be obviated by the retention of Messrs. Wilde and Rayner to prosecute the suit. On the principle that a half a loaf is better than none the township could afford to give Messrs. Wilde and Rayner one-half of the money collected as a compensation fee. Both men are convinced that the case is a clear one, and as the township needs the money the case should be pushed promptly and vigorously. It is not often that the township picks up a valuable legal opinion free of charge. Ex-Chancellor Runyon or some other legal luminary would have charged at least \$500 for a legal gem of that brilliancy. Mr. Wilde has very properly declined to back his opinion with his money, but he should not be deprived of the opportunity to back it with his brains. There seems to be no reason to doubt that if the lawyers who have asserted that the claim is a valid one should go before the court and lay the matter before it, it is very evident that the Judge would not be long in deciding which party to the suit to kick out of the court, and if the argument on the plaintiff's side was supplemented with a copy of the Committee report recommending town ownership of water and light plants in Bloomfield the Judge's foot would quickly find its way under the coat-tail of the Orange Water Company.

CASH.

A Montclair Opinion of Our Town.

Brady Bros., saloon-keepers, of Montclair, have broken ground on the corner of Bloomfield Avenue and Conger Street, Bloomfield, for a hotel. Messrs. Brady have selected Bloomfield as being a town where they are not likely to be disturbed in their especial line of business.

This town may be lax in enforcing the strict letter of the law against saloons, but no Cuckoos are printed here. Publishers of Cuckoos and other obscene books, papers, and picture-papers go to Montclair, where they are not likely to be disturbed in their especial line of business.

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An Offered Solution.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: As a solution of the question of water and Light in our town, I would suggest the formation of a joint stock company, with a capital of say, \$200,000, divided into 40,000 shares at par value of \$5 each. This capital to be raised by popular subscription from the citizens of Bloomfield, thus practically making it municipal ownership without any political machinery. The company to be governed by a board of directors to be elected annually by the stock holders. Each share of stock issued to have one vote.

The by-laws, or other proper documents, to contain substantially the following clauses and conditions:

No individual stockholder shall hold more than \$5,000 worth of stock of the company. The idea is to have the taxpayers generally hold the stock and to prevent it getting into the hands of monopolists.

The township to have the option of purchasing the whole plant at any time within five years at actual cost, plus six per cent per annum on stock issued, and the stock of the company in case of purchase by the town, may be exchanged at par for township bonds, or used to pay taxes or other indebtedness to the township.

That for the present the company shall only ask for Franchise to lay pipes and furnish water on streets where there is none, or where the present service is unsatisfactory or inadequate to the demand.

That electric light service shall extend over the township, but only to be used by and paid for by the town in such districts as the Town Committee shall from time to time direct.

That both light and water shall be furnished to the town and private consumers at say ten per cent over cost, but in the cost shall be allowed six per cent interest to stock holders. And that connections to private houses be on the same basis. That the township shall only pay for water and light actually used.

JOS. A. PELOUBET.

Death of Emmons B. Corby.

Emmons B. Corby, aged 64 years, died at his home on Washington Avenue on Thursday night after a long illness. Mr. Corby was a resident of this town for many years. He was connected with the Glen Ridge Quarry and Mining Company, which opened and operated the quarry on Bloomfield Avenue and recently suspended operations. He was a member of Eastern Star Lodge, Knights and Ladies of Honor. Mr. Corby was a zealous worker in the cause of temperance, and was a member of the Order of Good Templars. He was an active member of the Park M. E. Church and very faithful in his attendance. He leaves two daughters, Mrs. William Lewis and Miss Mildred Corby. The funeral service will take place from the Park M. E. Church, Monday, April 2, at 2.30 p. m.

Missionary Work in Quebec.

Next Thursday evening the missionary meeting in the Baptist Church will be of special interest. An attractive programme will be given, showing the progress of the work of evangelization among the Roman Catholic population of Quebec. Mr. W. N. Westbrook, singing evangelist, late of Montreal, will speak of his own experiences in this work. All are invited.

Interesting Exhibit.

An exhibition of unusual interest to housekeepers was given at the grocery store of R. T. Cadmus during the past week, when practical illustrations of the results derived from the use of Hecker's self-raising flour were seen. These practical illustrations will be continued at C. W. Martin's store four days next week.

Union Evangelistic Service.

The quarterly union evangelistic service will be held in the First Presbyterian Church on Lord's Day evening at 7.30, sermon by Rev. Dr. H. W. Ballantine. A collection will be taken for the funds of the Relief Committee of the Evangelical Union.

W. C. T. U.

The regular weekly meeting of the Bloomfield Woman's Christian Temperance Union will be held next Tuesday at 3.30 p. m. at the reading-rooms on Broad Street, next to the Post-office. All are invited to attend this meeting. The Royal Temperance Legion School will be held at 3.30 p. m. at the same place.

In Aid of the Hospital.

A number of ladies have been very busily engaged during the past winter preparing for a sale, to be given for the benefit of the Mountaineer Hospital. This sale will be held Wednesday afternoon and evening of next week, April 3rd at the residence of Mrs. R. C. Newton, 71 North Fullerton Avenue, Montclair, where will be found articles both useful and ornamental, also home-made cake and candy. The necessities of a household can easily be supplied at this sale. Will the friends of the hospital manifest their interest by their presence?

A. J. Levi, proprietor of the catering establishment "S. & J. Davis," East Orange, has opened a confectionery, bakery, and catering business in the Doremus Building, Fullerton Avenue, Montclair. Orders from Glen Ridge and Bloomfield will receive prompt attention.—Advt.

One of the most learned barristers of Bombay, India, Mr. Virchand Gaudhi, contributes to the April Forum an article entitled "Why Christian Missions Have Failed in India," which treats the whole matter of missions in India in a new light and from a Hindoo standpoint.—Advt.

Mrs. F. W. Bennett will resume musical instruction on September 14th. For terms etc., address or call at 537 Bloomfield Avenue.—Advt.

Clairvoyant Examination Free by Dr. E. F. Butterfield, at Continental Hotel, N. Y. 20th Street and Broadway, Thursday, April 19, from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M.



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